



Maricopa County

Environmental Services Department

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July 9, 2004

Reference: Potential Electric Power Outages

To Whom It May Concern:

In view of concerns about the reliability of the Phoenix metropolitan area's electric power system this month, the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department wishes to do its part to help meet the area's electricity needs. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the Department's position on the use of emergency back-up generators to help avert blackouts during power shortage emergencies.

Due to the Westwing substation fire and current wildfires that threaten electrical transmission lines for local utilities, the electric power system is well below reserve standards. To protect the electrical system and ensure reliability, this Department believes it is appropriate that back-up generators used to avert a power blackout also be considered "emergency generators" as that term is used in air quality permits. The circumstances under which back-up generators may be used to avert blackouts while being treated as an emergency generator include:

1. A power shortage emergency exists,
2. Use is limited to the hours of the day requested by the local power providers, and
3. The units are operated within parameters that maintain the integrity of permit conditions.

This guidance is effective until July 31, 2004. If it appears that the power shortage will extend beyond that date, the Department may issue additional guidance. If you have any further questions, please call Larry Spivack (602) 506-6739.

Sincerely,

Al Brown
Director